



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 10/16/2008

Capital Planning Committee Meeting Minutes October 16, 2008

In attendance were:

Steve Andrew
 John FitzMaurice
 Charles Foskett, Chairman
 Nancy Galkowski
 Steve Gilligan
 Ruth Lewis
 Anthony Lionetta
 Susan Mazzarella
 Barbara Thornton

* Denotes those not in attendance

1. Open Meeting: Charlie Foskett called the meeting to order. Minutes of the October 2, 2008 were approved. Nancy Galkowski passed out additional information to CPC members, such as a draft of CP Plan, subcommittee reports and a report on prior year item balances.

2. Overall State Budget Issues: There was a general discussion about the implications of the upcoming State budget cuts on the Town. The Governor has announced a 7% cut. The Town gets about \$16 million/year in State aide. At this time, cuts in State aide are not proposed. The Town will lose some revenue on other items, such as earmarks and other programs, but these dollars are not substantial.

On a related matter, the Town's local revenues may be collectively down by as much as a \$1 million next year.

3. Capital Item Balances: Ruth Lewis provided a report on prior year item balances as of September 30. A quick scan by the CPC noted balances of \$81k and \$13k balances related to Peirce Field, \$33k and \$3k for telephone system generator and software upgrade items and some other significant sums. Susan Mazzarella provided a list of work undertaken at Stratton and Thompson Schools using the respective capital requests. Subcommittees are to review this report when they meet with their departments. In general, items/balances older than two years should be swept back into the plan.

4. Sub-Committee Report – Police: John FitzMaurice and Susan Mazzarella reported on their meeting /review of police items. A written report was provided to the CPC. Highlighted discussion points were as follows:

- As far as the Plaza Deck, we are awaiting an updated cost estimate of the repair work, now that the testing and inspection have been completed. (\$1,350,000 is the previous estimate). There is a possibility that the updated cost will be lower. Also, it was noted that the Evaluation Report states that the deck repair work does not need to be done immediately.
- There is a recommendation that the once the deck repair is done, it should be immediately followed by repairs to the building envelope.

- The question was raised if the Police and Animal vans could be items/costs “shared” with other communities.
- The Radio Upgrade and Security System requests are not capital items.
- Relative to the Speed Trailer, there was discussion regarding whether or not we need a second speed trailer.
- Relative to the Traffic Measuring Devices, there is a question whether we need this. Also, should this item/cost be “shared” with another community.

5. Sub-Committee Report – Health and Human Services: Ruth Lewis and Barbara Thornton reported on their meeting on these items. A written report was provided. Highlighted discussion points were as follows:

- There is a question on what is intended by the Whittemore Robbins House porch request >> \$25k seems way high for an inspection as noted. More information is needed.
- There was discussion about the cottage at the Robbins House and how it is used.

6. Sub-Committee Report on School Items: Barbara Thornton gave a quick overview of School requests. A written report and recommendations is to follow. A major item is a request for \$150k for remodeling of unused space at the high school. This has far reaching consequences and the need for it is a complicated issue. (special programs, state mandated requirements vs. the reduced enrollment of schools compared to past enrollments) Also, this space expansion has operational, staffing and equipment consequences. The School Department was asked to provide factual information and a plan before this item will be considered.

7. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2008 at **5PM**.

8. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned.